

FRENCH GUNNERS BRING DOWN ZEPPELIN IN PARIS STREETS— ALL OF CREW KILLED.

Paris, March 17.—From 11,000 feet in the sky, French expert anti-aircraft gunners today at Compiègne brought down in blazing ruins a giant German Zeppelin, one of a number apparently returning from a raid on England.

It fell in one of the main streets of the city a charred mass, those of its crew who remained aboard being burned into unrecognizable masses. Two or three of the crew, mad with pain of the flames and certain of death, preferred to meet it otherwise than in a mass of fire and jumped thousands of feet to the earth.

Thousands gathered in the streets to listen to the rattle of the anti-aircraft guns and to cheer the marksmen. When one monster of the sky was hit there was a tremendous outburst of cheering.

Meanwhile the Zeppelins from their vast height aloft had launched several bombs at the town. No one was hurt by them and the damage was insignificant. The greater peril came when the blazing mass of the stricken Zeppelin shot down from aloft, gathering momentum as it fell nearly two miles from the sky, but no one was injured.

A cable from London late last night announced that an air raid was in progress on "southeastern counties of England." Presumably the Zeppelin reported destroyed as above was a participator in this raid.

This is the first raid on which Zeppelins have participated since the death of their inventor.

—O—O— MEDIATORS HAVE DEFINITE PLAN—GOMPERS NOT YET IN

New York, March 17. — Definite proposal for averting railway strike has been made by Pres. Wilson's mediators.

Six hours of conferences, ending at 4 a. m., failed to bring any statement of change in position from

brotherhood chiefs or railway managers.

At 9:30 mediators were to meet brotherhood chiefs, presumably to receive their answer to government's proposal, the nature of which is not revealed, at 11 o'clock, but seven hours in advance of strike deadline mediators will meet the managers.

Sam'l Gompers, pres. of A. F. of L., had not joined his fellow mediators early today. It was learned on high authority that he may not appear in the negotiations.

Gompers directed the great labor meeting in Washington which declared for universal training and co-operation with the government. He has emphasized patriotic angles of every question before him lately. There are rumors that he may find himself at issue with brotherhood chiefs in pressing their demands at this time.

As Gompers pledged his support to brotherhoods in their 8-hour day fight, his position in revival of the controversy is embarrassing.

W. G. Lee, president of trainmen, declared with emphasis, shortly before going into conference with the mediators today, that no move to call off the strike had been made. Tone of his remarks seemed to indicate the brotherhoods still are full of fight.

"I cannot discuss what transpired at the conference," he said. "Labor was fully represented.

"I understand Mr. Gompers is supposed to be at Atlantic City and that they have been trying to get into touch with him by telephone and by telegraph."

—O—O— KILLED BY ARMOUR TRUCK

Frank Bartappi, 55, 240 W. 22d, killed when Armour & Co. truck hit him when he alighted from a street car at Archer and Ashland av. and started to cross the street.

Beverly Bennett, 56442 Racine av., driver of the truck was held by the police awaiting the decision of the coroner's inquest.